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THE PENNSYLVANIA-GERMAN SOCIETY.



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The
Pennsylvania-German
Society

PROCEEDINGS AND ADDRESSES

AT

READING, OCT. 27, 1905

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THE PENNSYLVANIA-GERMAN SOCIETY

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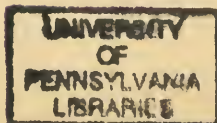


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Pennsylvania — THE GERMAN INFLUENCE IN ITS SETTLEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT:

PART XVI. THE WRECK OF THE SHIP NEW ERA
Upon the New Jersey Coast, November 13, 1854, by
Julius F. Sachse.

PART XVII. GOVERNOR JOSEPH HIESTER, by H. M. M.
RICHARDS.

PENNSYLVANIA-GERMAN GENEALOGIES: The Hiester Family,
by H. M. M. Richards.

Record of Indentures of Individuals bound out as Apprentices, Servants, etc., and of German and other Redemptioners in the Office of the Mayor of the City of Philadelphia, October 3, 1771, to October 5, 1773. Copied under the direction of the Publication Committee of the Pennsylvania-German Society from the Original Volume in Possession of The American Philosophical Society, held at Philadelphia for Promoting Useful Knowledge.

OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY

FOR 1905-1906.

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BISHOP NATHANIEL BERTOLET GRUBB.

Secretary:

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REPORT OF THE PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
PENNSYLVANIA-GERMAN SOCIETY
AT ITS
FIFTEENTH ANNUAL MEETING

HELD AT READING, PA.

ON FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27, 1905

THE Executive Committee of the Society held its regular quarterly meeting in the rooms of the Historical Society of Berks County, 519 Court Street, Reading, Pa., at 8:00 P. M., on Thursday, October 26, for the transaction of its business.

MORNING SESSION.

The fifteenth annual meeting of the Pennsylvania-German Society was held in the chapel of St. Paul's Memorial Reformed Church, on North Sixth Street, Reading, Pa., on Friday, October 27, 1905, and was largely attended.

The meeting was called to order by the President, the

Hon. James Addams Beaver, LL.D., late Brigadier General, U. S. V., Civil War, late Governor of Pennsylvania, President Judge Superior Court of Pennsylvania, at 9:30 A. M.

After an impressive invocation by the Rev. F. J. F. Schantz, D.D., of Myerstown, Pa., the Society was welcomed to Reading, in a most kindly manner by the Hon. Gustav A. Endlich, LL.D., Judge of the Berks County Courts.

ADDRESS OF WELCOME.

At the threshold of the 15th annual meeting of the Pennsylvania-German Society, it is my pleasant duty and my privilege on behalf of the local membership to welcome you in our midst. It needs but few words to convey this cordial greeting. We are heartily glad to see you, and we trust that your brief stay among us may be as agreeable and profitable to you as it is sure to be to us.

You are here in the very heart and center of the Pennsylvania-German people. I almost feel constrained to apologize for not addressing you in its own peculiar vernacular. But you know they insist on printing everything that is said at these meetings, and unfortunately as yet every one has his own way of spelling in Pennsylvania-German; so that nobody, or hardly anybody, can make sense of what any other has written. If it were not for the lack of a distinctive alphabet, or at least a settled orthography, the Pennsylvania-German language might have a literature and a title to preservation. And yet its preservation is not essential. I do not understand it to be a purpose of this society. Among the things that will strike you here, the most noteworthy will not be the occasional use of an idiom characteristic of the race to which you belong and recalling you to the consciousness of

your ancestry. You will be more interested to find everywhere the marks of its creditable history, the traces of its heroic struggles, the evidences of its prudent relations with the savages as well as of its ready amalgamation with neighbors and new-comers of kindred European nationality, and the enduring proofs of its toil and thrift and usefulness. Pushed always towards the frontier; hewing its way through the wilds; fighting the wolves of the forest and the gaunt wolf of starvation; facing and overcoming the merciless forces of nature; soothing the fierce temper of the Indians by fair treatment; receiving on equal terms and with helpful sympathy settlers from every clime seeking shelter in their wake; insensibly, by force of friendly association, imposing their own language and habits of thought and life upon these strangers; mingling with them, importing to them that priceless heritage of the Teutonic race, the principle of personal freedom, of self-help and of the dignity and worth of the individual; rearing its youth in a simple, practical faith; toiling, hasteless and tireless, at his appointed task of making the wilderness to blossom as a rose—such, in the early days of our country, was the part played by the people who dwelt in these regions.

You will stand to-day upon the summit of Mt. Penn. Towards the east you will look out upon the hills of Alsace and Ruscombmanor townships, the name of the one bearing witness to the German origin of its settlers and calling to mind the honorable cause of their immigration; the name of the other, though peopled by the same stock, as English as English can be. Beyond those hills you will catch glimpses of the fertile farms of what was called by the Indians, and is now the township of Oley, "the land encompassed by hills," the refuge of

many a French Huguenot family. To the south your eye, passing lingeringly over the beautiful valley that stretches through Exeter, will rest upon the stately Never-sink and the Flying Bird Hills beyond—names borrowed by the pioneers from their Indian neighbors. Again, to the west you will see Cumru, settled by the Welsh, and turning still further the Heidelbergs, Spring, Penn, Bern, Ontelaunee and so on—German, English, Indian names alternating as you complete the circle of your view. Each name tells its tale of the past, part of the story of a sturdy people, of wise husbandry, of hospitality, of moderation and conservatism, of respect for the rights of others, of love of liberty, of hard work, of suffering and endurance and success. I speak of this proudly to you with whom I share the honor of descent from such a race, and who with me are committed to the duty of enforcing recognition of its achievements.

How deeply interested we all are in the performance of this duty is attested by the gathering here to-day. I don't want to say anything against any former meeting. But I do think this is the most distinguished and the best looking we have ever had. It seems almost as though the days of Pennsylvania-Dutch Governors had come back to us. And what can I say by way of adequately expressing my sense of the many other attractions of and in my audience? Ladies and gentlemen, having come to this point, I realize that safety lies in brevity. I shall, therefore, only repeat what I began with—that in behalf of the Berks County members of the Society I bid you all most welcome.

The response to this welcome was eloquently made by Joseph L. Lemberger, Ph.M., of Lebanon, Pa., as follows:

RESPONSE TO THE ADDRESS OF WELCOME.

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is a privilege as well as a great pleasure to me, as I accept the duty of responding to the address of welcome delivered by his honor, Judge Endlich. Indeed I feel it a special honor to be permitted to express the thanks of the Pennsylvania-German Society for the welcome tendered by the local members in this historic Berks County, and were I to do as a friend indicated, and give it in the vernacular as suggested, I would perhaps say: *Mir sin froh bei eich tsu sei, und sin dankbar fur euer hertzlich wilkum. Mir feela dos mir bei eich dehome sin.*

I realize, Mr. President, that whilst that will express our thanks, *you* might have some difficulty in understanding it yourself, and some of the members might have the same difficulty. As our business is not conducted in the Pennsylvania-German vernacular, I do not propose to present our response in this way.

I cannot add to what I have said as an expression of our thanks, and yet meeting as we do in this historic county and city, associated with so many incidents in which we are directly concerned, it is eminently proper that some reference thereto should be made.

In the address of welcome a rehearsal of incidents leading up to the organization of this Society was made, and as we look at the annual proceedings of the association for the last fourteen years, we find almost on every page material suitable wherewith to perpetuate the valor, self-denial and sacrifice of our forefathers; those who came from their fatherland to build up this new country. Here in this county we receive a new inspiration.

The history of its early days is most interesting, and

what would some localities in this favored land not give, if their history possessed the colonial tint this county has?

Our Pennsylvania-German history is so full of these sacred memories that, in passing, we can only allude to some of those worthy heroes directly associated with Berks County.

You must think of the early Swedes, the Quakers, the Mennonites, the Moravians, the Lutherans and the Reformed, and as we are reminded of their suffering, self-denial, sacrifice and fortitude, we may allude to one of the principal characters, Count Zinzendorf, who only a short distance from where we are assembled, as the historian has it: "Was alone in his tent, seated upon a bundle of dry weeds, when the assassins approached to execute their nefarious and bloody mission. It was night, and the cool air of September had rendered a small fire necessary to his comfort and convenience. A curtain formed of a blanket and hung upon pins, was the only guard to the entrance of his tent. The heat of his small fire has roused a rattlesnake which lay in the weeds not far from it; and the reptile, to enjoy it more effectually, crawled slowly into the tent. Without, all was still and quiet, except the gentle murmur of the river at the rapids, a mile below. At this moment, the Indians softly approached the door of his tent, and slightly removing the curtain, contemplated the venerable man too deeply engaged in the subject of his thoughts, to notice either their approach, or the snake which lay extended before him. At a sight like this, even the heart of the savage shrunk from committing so horrid an act, and quitting the spot they hastily returned to the town and informed their companions that the Great Spirit protected the white man." Thus was he divinely protected that he might be

a factor, evangelizing and civilizing the people they found there.

We also think of Henry Melchior Muhlenberg and Conrad Weiser, and the great work accomplished by them, and I may be pardoned for my allusion to a spirit of personal ancestral pride, when I say to the good people of Berks County that my own mother was born a short distance outside of the precincts of your beautiful city, through which circumstance I feel it is quite fitting that I perform this pleasant duty, and feel myself more closely related to you.

Again in the name of the association I represent we express our heartfelt thanks for the welcome extended.

The annual address of the President, the Hon. James Addams Beaver, LL.D., of Bellefonte, Pa., was then read.

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

Members of the Pennsylvania-German Society:

My first prepared word is one of grateful appreciation for the honor which you did me a year ago in selecting me as your president. It is true that the request preceding my election was accompanied by the announcement that there were no duties connected with the office, except that of delivering the annual address, and I have found in my experience that the statement was literally true. But it is nevertheless an honor not to be lightly esteemed to be even the figurehead of such a goodly craft as that of the Pennsylvania-German Society. Having accepted the place with the knowledge of the one duty connected with it, I comply with the requirement of the position and the by-law of the Society, in addressing you now, with some practical suggestions which I hope may be of ser-

vice in determining the place to be occupied by the Society in relation to its larger connections with the commonwealth outside of itself. The distinguished men who have preceded me in this office have earned the gratitude of the Society and of the people of the commonwealth by the manner in which this duty has been performed. They have, in their several annual addresses, built up a body of historical and biographical literature which tells not only who we are and who have been and are still of us, but has also indicated the characteristics—physical, mental and moral—which have made the people of our blood and lineage a great formative influence and preponderating power in the building of our body politic, and has pointed out with more or less of definite detail and satisfactory fullness, the various sources and the varied courses of that rich stream of immigration which, although mingling with other streams from many different directions, has maintained itself with such surprising distinctness of language, manners, customs and characteristics, and which has added so much to the solidity, strength, sobriety and stability of society in our goodly commonwealth.

Our Society stands, as it must in its very nature, and as the underlying reason of its organization and existence, for two distinct things, or, rather, two definite ideas; first, that of indebtedness to the past, and, second, that of duty to the future; the latter almost necessarily grows out of the former. If we are indebted to the past, we must pay that debt to the future, hence, obligation—duty. My predecessors have, as was most meet and necessary, dealt for the most part with the first of these ideas—indebtedness to the past. Who were our fathers? Whence came they? What the reason for their coming? What have they done? What influence have they exerted, and

how have they wrought in the founding and rearing of the church and the state? What part have they played in ecclesiastical, civil and military affairs? What have they contributed by pen and speech and sword toward the establishment of a firm basis of civil and religious liberty? How have they assisted in the establishment and development of trade and commerce? In what way and to what extent are science and art, learning and literature indebted to them? These, and other questions of like character, have been answered, at least in part, by my predecessors. These, and a hundred other questions of like character, crowd upon us now. They deserve to be answered. They ought to be answered. To some extent, they have been answered; and, just in proportion as they have been, and shall hereafter be, fully and fairly answered, just in that proportion do we discover the rich heritage which we have in our ancestry, and the great debt we owe to those who have gone before us; and just in that proportion will we discover the great load of obligation which rests upon us, and which we must discharge to those who are to come after us.

What is to be the final American type? What will be the characteristics—physical, mental and moral, of the future citizens of this country, when we shall have developed in its finality the outcome of our civilization and the fundamental ideas upon which our government and other institutions rest? We have probably not yet gathered from the different sources which are to contribute to this final character, all the elements which are to enter into it, and we are probably, therefore, not ready as yet to answer the question fully. But it must be evident to any one who has given thoughtful attention to the subject, that the American character, as it is to be finally de-

veloped, will be a composite. If the characteristics which are now being developed in various ways, in different parts of our country, are those which are to prevail in the final American type, we at least may be pardoned if we surrender with regret the characteristics of slow-going, steady and sturdily honest and thrifty Pennsylvania Germans for those which have been brought to the surface by recent development. We must recognize the fact, however, that the different streams of immigration which have flowed hither in the past, and are tending to flow with greater volume and force, cannot remain distinct; that there will necessarily be in the future, as there has been in the past, more or less of commingling, until, in the process of time, we shall develop a distinct type suited to our situation and environment, to be known as the American type. This will not come in our day, nor in that of our children; but, if the life of the nation is prolonged as is probable, this would seem to be inevitable. Within the present generation there has been a great change in manners, customs, habits and language of our Pennsylvania Germans. When I came to the bar less than half a century ago it was rare to pass a term of court at which there were witnesses called who could not or would not give their testimony in any language save the Pennsylvania German. This scarcely ever occurs in our community now, although not rare, perhaps, here, but this change must in the nature of things continue and it is only an illustration of what I wish to convey.

This leads me to offer a few suggestions as to the duty which we, as an organization of the descendants of our Pennsylvania-German ancestry, owe to the future, and as to the manner in which that duty is to be discharged. As has been formerly remarked, our ancestors were not given

to much speech about themselves. They were content to do without boasting or even talking of what they were doing. The result is that the world knows little of the strength and volume of that quiet, steady, persistent stream of usefulness and helpfulness which has come through our ancestors into the life and up-building of our great commonwealth. We of this generation, therefore, owe it to ourselves to tell in such graphic way as we can, and gather into such permanent form as may be, the influence of that steady stream which for nearly two hundred years has been exerting itself for the manifest good of the general community. As I have before intimated, much has already been done in this direction by the publications of this Society, as they have grown in volume and importance, and they are not surpassed by those of any other organization of a similar kind in the country. I assume, of course, that these publications are to continue to grow in the future as in the past in their value as a contribution to the full and final record of achievement by our ancestors. It must be recognized, however, that these publications have a very limited circulation, and that even now it is impossible to secure copies of the entire series, by reason of the fact that the earlier volumes are out of print.

We have in Pennsylvania, as you all know, what is doubtless a child of our organization, the magazine now in its sixth year, known as *The Pennsylvania German*. As this little quarterly is to be issued hereafter bi-monthly, and is to assume more pretentious proportions, it seems to me that the members of this Society should interest themselves in giving the largest possible circulation to the magazine, and in contributing to its pages recollections of the past and reminiscences of persons and places which

will convey to the world at large a better idea of who the Pennsylvania-Germans were, what they have done, and what permanent contribution has been made by them, through their well-known characteristics, toward the up-building and general welfare of our state and nation. I do not enlarge upon this thought, because it would not seem to be necessary to emphasize it, in view of the fact that our very organization stands for this as one of its chief aims and objects. But it is to be remembered, and cannot be too often or too fully spoken of, that this generation, and particularly the older portion of it, has a mass of knowledge and a body of tradition which, if not embalmed by the preservative of all arts now, must be finally lost to the world.

Another practical way in which our members may render assistance along the same lines is to aid in the organization of historical societies in the various counties of the commonwealth. Some of our older counties have accomplished wonders in what has been done in the way of rescuing and preserving local history and biography, and in gathering, as illustrative of the manners and customs of former generations, the quaint and curious implements and articles of everyday use which contributed to their convenience and comfort. One of the best of these societies—that of Bucks County—has erected a permanent building of its own and has thus assured the preservation and the perpetuity—so far as such things can be perpetuated—of their collection. If the influence of the members of our Society could be made to tell in the organization and maintenance of such societies in the counties where the Pennsylvania-German element is dominant, we would be accomplishing a great deal in the discharge of the duty which we owe to the future. It would not be

wise, perhaps, nor is it expedient, that we should build up, either in the State or in our several counties, historical societies of our own, and yet by exerting the influence which the members of this Society have in their various localities, we could utilize the facilities of the societies already established, so as to preserve what is to us especially valuable in the history and traditions of the people in whom we are so much interested. For example, the Historical Society of Pennsylvania is organized upon broad lines which would doubtless enable us to coöperate with it and secure such recognition as might make the collections of this Society permanently safe and would add value and additional attraction to the collections of the Historical Society itself.

In like manner also, is it not entirely practicable, by a slight increase in the annual dues of the members, or in securing special contributions from those who have the matter at heart, to increase the edition of our annual publications and place copies of them in carefully selected depositories in libraries of historical societies or of colleges or of other local well-established public libraries, and thus bring within the reach of the general reader and of the investigator of the future, the mass of material which gives a clearer comprehension and a more definite view of who our fathers were and what they did?

A Pennsylvania-German department or alcove established, built up and maintained under the auspices of this Society in coöperation with the Librarian at the State Library at Harrisburg seems to be entirely practicable and feasible. The excellent foundation already laid there could be easily built upon under judicious direction and generous encouragement so as to add materially to the value and usefulness of the library itself, the enrichment

of its historical and biographical treasures, the development of the true idea of a State library and the practical usefulness of our Society.

You will gather from these simple suggestions that I believe in our past—that we have a past worth preserving—that it can be preserved and that we have the ability and practical sense to preserve it if we but undertake the task in a common sense way actuated by high motives and governed by the persistency characteristic of our race.

I do not undervalue the work our Society has done nor do I underestimate the influence it has exerted, but it is my firm belief that the work can be greatly enlarged and its influence almost indefinitely extended, first by a systematic effort to increase its membership, and, second, by a multiplication and enlargement of the channels through which its influence is to be exerted. The increase in membership I believe to be within the limits of easy attainment. A slight advance in dues to say five dollars per annum, to which no one could or would object if a definite and worthy object were presented to the members, would secure an income sufficient for the maintenance of an executive officer and office force which would ensure in the end an endowment and annual income which would amply provide for the enlarged work which is barely outlined and hinted at herein.

These suggestions are not the result of sudden thought and are not engendered by an enthusiasm created by the sound of my own voice as I dictated them, but they have been gradually forming and growing in my mind ever since my connection with our Society, and I began to think of a good reason for its existence, and a worthy object for the exercise of its latent possibilities. I do not expect them to be enthusiastically received or hur-

riedly adopted. We are not in the habit of doing things in that way. But if next year or the year after we should raise a committee to consider the whole subject and carefully consider the ways and means for carrying into effect the general object herein so crudely presented my object will have been attained and I shall be fully content whatever the result.

The executive officers who have been called upon to administer the affairs of our Society have served it and us with a singleness of purpose and devotion to duty worthy of all commendation. How they have been able to do so much and yet devote themselves to the discharge of other duties it is difficult to understand. But we have no right to expect such service for the indefinite future nor are we likely to be able to secure it. The publications of the Society are and will continue to be the enduring monument of their faithfulness and efficiency.

The reverence for age and the worship of their ancestors are redeeming characteristics of Chinese civilization. The latter is based upon the distinct teaching of Confucius and exerts a powerful influence upon the life and character of that singular people. We may not adopt the object of their worship as such, but as we worship the God of our fathers may we not devoutly thank him for our godly ancestry and as the evidence of our gratitude hold them in profound and grateful remembrance and portray them to the world as best we can as worthy the admiration, the gratitude and the honor of all men?

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

The annual report of the Secretary, H. M. M. Richards, of Lebanon, Pa., was then read.

To the Officers and Members of the Pennsylvania-German Society, Gentlemen:

It gives your Secretary pleasure to report the continued prosperity of our Society. Its publications have in no wise retrograded from the high standard previously attained; its Executive Committee and officers have faithfully attended to the duties assigned them; all its affairs have been wisely conducted, and its membership continues to increase.

Because of this fact an extended report on my part seems to be unnecessary, and I, therefore, beg merely to say that our roll of members, on October 27, 1905, foots up the total of 473. There have been 36 received into our midst during the year just ended, and we have lost, by death, the unusually small number of three.

TREASURER'S REPORT, PENNSYLVANIA-GERMAN SOCIETY FOR YEAR ENDING OCTOBER 15, 1905.

DR.

To Dues received as per stubs 2,465 to 2,900 inclusive..	\$1,099.00	
To Cash, Book account	294.00	
To Cash, Certificate account	1.50	
To Cash, Life Membership, T. H. Krick.....	50.00	
To Cash, Secretary's account.....	53.09	
October 25, 1904:		
Balance General fund	\$1,203.44	
Life fund	250.00	\$1,453.44
Total		\$2,951.03

Election of Officers.

21

CR.

By Cash as per Vouchers, 158 to 174.....	\$1,515.42	
By Cash in Bank, General fund.....	1,135.61	
By Cash in Bank, Life fund.....	300.00	\$2,951.03
Cash in Bank as per book.....	\$1,435.61	
Dues per cent., 1906, received since closing this report	684.00	
Total Cash to Credit of Society....	\$2,119.61	

JULIUS F. SACHSE,
Treasurer.

The above report was referred to an Auditing Committee consisting of Abraham S. Schropp, W. F. Weiser and Geo. B. Kulp, Esquires, who subsequently reported that they had duly audited the same and found it to be correct.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

The election of officers for the ensuing year then took place, with the following result: President, Hon. Gustav Adolph Endlich, LL.D., of Reading, Pa., Judge of the Berks County Courts; Vice-Presidents, Isaac Hiester, of Reading, Pa., and Bishop Nathaniel Bertolet Grubb, of Philadelphia, Pa.; Treasurer, Julius Friedrich Sachse, Litt.D., of Philadelphia, Pa.; Executive Committee, Dr. D. W. Nead, of Philadelphia, Pa., Hon. Maurice C. Eby, of Harrisburg, Pa., and Ethan Allen Weaver, C.E., M.S., of Germantown, Pa., for an unexpired term.

The remainder of the morning session was taken up with the business of the Society and the reading of historical papers.

AFTERNOON.

The reading of historical papers was continued during the fore part of the afternoon, followed by a most interesting trip over the Mt. Penn Gravity Road with its unsurpassed scenic beauty.

EVENING.

In the early part of the evening the members of the Society were favored with a most interesting talk, by Daniel Miller, Esq., of Reading, Pa., on Historic Berks County, which was profusely illustrated by lantern slides, after which they adjourned to the Rajah Temple, on Franklin Street, for the reception and banquet.

The attendance was very large at the banquet, where the Society was treated to an excellent menu and unusually fine music by the celebrated Germania Orchestra, of Reading, Pa. The closing intellectual feast was an event long to be remembered. Jacob H. Redsecker, Ph.M., of Lebanon, Pa., presided as toastmaster, and the following gentlemen very ably responded to their several toasts: "The Pennsylvania-German Governors," Hon. Samuel W. Pennypacker, LL.D., Governor of Pennsylvania; "An Instance of Pennsylvania-German Patriotism," Hon. Irving P. Wanger, M.C.; "Our Pennsylvania-German Wives and Sweethearts," Professor George T. Ettinger, Ph.D.; "Our 'Dutch' Friends in South Africa," Frederick W. Unger; "The Pennsylvania-German in Contemporary Fiction," Reginald Wright Kauffman.

In Memoriam

Richard Meily.

Richard Meily died suddenly, at his home in Lebanon, Pa., at 1:30 P. M., on March 31, 1906. He was born in Jonestown, Pa., on December 8, 1839, the son of Henry Meily and Susan Flickinger.

Mr. Meily was one of the leading iron-masters of the Lebanon Valley. About 1857 he went to Lebanon, where he secured a clerical position in the Valley National Bank. In 1867, with his cousin John Meily as senior partner, he built the Meily furnace at Lebanon, which he rebuilt a year ago, and which, at the time of his decease, he was managing under the title of the Lebanon Valley Furnace Company.

Besides his connection with the furnace he was a director of the Lebanon Manufacturing Company, in the Jonestown Insurance Company, and was also interested in banking institutions.

His father, Henry Meily, was a leading business man of Jonestown in his day. He is survived by his wife, née Anna DeHuff, and two children, George E. Meily, of Lebanon, Pa., and Mrs. Ned Riest, of Michigan, also by a sister, Mrs. U. Henry Heilman, of Jonestown, Pa. His two brothers, George F. Meily, late State Senator, and Henry Meily, are both deceased.

Mr. Meily was a consistent and active member of St. John's Reformed Church, of Lebanon, Pa., where he served for many years as elder, organist of the Sunday-school and Superintendent of its primary department.

He was one of the old school of self-reliant, self-made men. Business integrity, a personal regard for those subordinate to him and for their welfare, with a high sense of honor, caused him to be greatly esteemed by all who chanced to be thrown in contact with him.

He was elected to membership in the Pennsylvania-German Society on October 21, 1903.

H. M. M. R.

John Weidman Mish.

John Weidman Mish was born April 22, 1822, in Lebanon, Pa. He was son of John Bickel Mish, b. January 12, 1791, d. December 15, 1837, a practising physician of Lebanon, Pa.; studied medicine under the distinguished Dr. Samuel Agnew, and, for a while, in the Medical Department of the University of Pennsylvania; m. in 1816, to Maria Weidman, b. 1793, d. 1866, dau. Capt. John Weidman, of the Revolutionary War.

His grandfather, Jacob Mish, of Harrisburg, Pa., m. Catharine, dau. John Bickel, who was born 1748, in Switzerland, d. 1840, at Jonestown, Pa., and served during the Revolution as a member of Capt. Koppenheffer's company, Col. Timothy Green's battalion.

His great-grandfather, John Mish, b. September 8, 1729, d. January 20, 1810, m. Margaret Swake, b. September 28, 1838, both buried in Friedler's Church graveyard, near Shiremanstown, Cumberland County, Pa.

Mr. Mish was educated in the old Lebanon Academy. In his eighteenth year he began teaching school in Union Township, Lebanon County, and in 1841 became Principal of the Annville Academy, where he taught one year. Having read law with his uncle, Jacob B. Weidman, he was admitted to the Bar in 1845, practised his profession for several years and served for three years as District Attorney, the first man elected to that office under the new constitution. He then gave up the practise of law and became interested in the buying and selling of real estate, proving himself to be a successful business man.

He was Secretary and Treasurer of the Lebanon Gas Company from its organization in 1856; Director of the Lebanon National Bank; President of the Dime Savings Bank of Lebanon for three years; Cashier of the First National Bank of Lebanon for ten years; Treasurer of the borough of Lebanon; President of the Lebanon Cemetery Company for twenty years, and served two terms in the City Council. He was the oldest Free Mason in Lebanon County, also a member of the I. O. O. F.

In 1848 Mr. Mish was married to Amelia Krause, b. 1826, d. 1896, leaving five children—Matilda K., wife of Charles H. Killinger, of Lebanon; Mason P., of Lebanon; William W., of South Lebanon Township; Robert C., of Los Angeles, Cal.; and John, of Lebanon.

He became a member of the Pennsylvania-German Society at its organization. His decease occurred on June 14, 1906.

H. M. M. R.



William Franklin Weiser.

William Franklin Weiser was born in York, Pa., on August 25, 1853. He was son of Erastus H. Weiser, January 28, 1826–July 11, 1872, and Anne Franklin, d. April 16, 1871 (dau. of Walter S. Franklin, and sister of late General B. Franklin, of York, Admiral Samuel R. Franklin, of Washington, and Colonel W. S. Franklin, of Baltimore), who was son of Charles Weiser, December 29, 1796–July 17, 1867, son of Samuel Weiser, May 16, 1765–January 17, 1838, son of John Weiser, b. 1726, son of Christopher Frederick Weiser (bro. of Colonel Conrad Weiser), son of John Conrad Weiser, 1660–1746, leader of the German immigration to New York Province, and Captain, June–July, 1711, in the German contingent of the British Army assembled at Albany for attack on Montreal, son of Jacob Weiser, b. ab. 1625, "Schuldheisz" of Gross-Aspach, Germany, son of Jacob Weiser, b. ab. 1590, Chief Magistrate of Gross-Aspach.

Mr. Weiser was formerly of the banking house of Weiser, Son and Carl. He was a bachelor and had been retired for several years. Most of his time was passed as a tourist.

His death, owing to heart failure, occurred suddenly on the night of April 1, 1906, in his apartments at York, Pa.

He became a member of the Pennsylvania-German Society on April 11, 1894.

H. M. M. R.

Robert Rau.

Robert Rau was born in Lehigh County, Pa., on November 4, 1844. He was son of David Rau, b. January 1, 1820, d. January 13, 1879, son of Valentine Rau, m. Elizabeth Fenner, who was dau. Felix Fenner, m. Martha Eschenbach, dau. Andrew Eschenbach, b. June 10, 1710, in Naumburg, Saxony, d. June 7, 1763, at Oley, Pa. He was one of the Moravian pioneers to Pennsylvania, in 1740, and established the Moravian Church at Oley, Pa.

His mother was Sarah A. Yundt, b. March 11, 1818, dau. Anna Mickley, b. March 12, 1794, d. 1888, dau. Jacob Mickley, son John Jacob Mickley (Jean Jacques Michelet), who came to America from Metz, August 28, 1733, and settled in Whitehall, Lehigh County, Pa. His parents were French Huguenots who fled from Metz and sought safety at Deux-ponts (Zwei-brücken). Jules Michelet (the historian), and the late Dr. Prof. Michelet, of the University of Berlin, are descendants.

Mr. Rau was educated at the Moravian Parochial School, of Bethlehem, and at the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy, from which he graduated in 1866. At the time of his decease he was the senior member of the drug firm of Simon Rau & Company, Bethlehem.

He was actively identified with all the work of the Moravian Church. He became a member of the famous trombone choir at Bethlehem in 1866, and played in it for forty-five years; for forty years he was tenor soloist

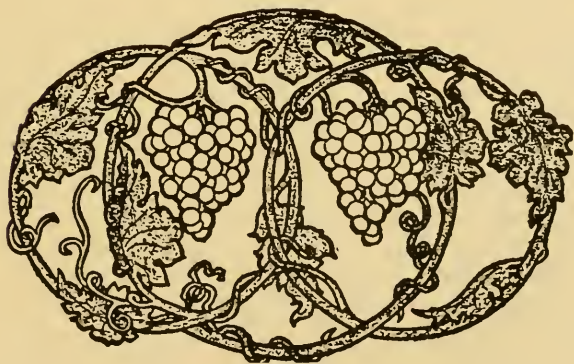
of the choir; he was the Archivist of the Moravian Church, and a member of its Board of Church Extension.

Mr. Rau was author of a "History of the Water Works of Bethlehem" (the first in the United States), also of a "Sketch of the Moravian Congregation at Gnadenhütten, Pa."

He was a member of the Moravian Historical Society, and of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. He was elected to membership in the Pennsylvania-German Society on July 20, 1894.

His death occurred suddenly, on July 30, 1906, and was due to heart disease. He is survived by one son, Albert G. Rau, Superintendent of the Moravian Parochial Schools.

H. M. M. R.



Rudolph F. Kelker.

Rudolph F. Kelker, son of Frederick Kelker and Sarah Fager, was born in Harrisburg on February 17, 1820. He received a fair education, and spent the whole of his long life in that city.

In 1835, when a mere lad, he entered the hardware store of Ogelsby and Hinckley, which had been founded by his father. In 1842 he purchased the interest of Mr. Hinckley, and, when Mr. Ogelsby died in 1846, took full charge of the business, under the name of Kelker and Bros. He retired about 1851.

In 1852 he succeeded his father as a director of the Harrisburg Bank, serving for a number of triennial terms. For several years he was a director of the First National Bank, and a manager of the Harrisburg Cemetery.

Upon the incorporation of the city he was appointed, by the Legislature, on a commission to lay out the streets in the new territory included within its limits. From 1854 until 1891 he served as a trustee of the Harrisburg Academy, and was, for a long time, its Secretary and Treasurer.

From 1866 to 1872 Mr. Kelker was one of the directors of the poor for Dauphin County, and was instrumental in securing new buildings and other improvements. He was a founder of the City Hospital, and a manager from its organization in 1873 until 1889. In 1873 and 1874 he was one of the trustees of the Pennsylvania Lunatic Asylum at Harrisburg. At the organization of the

Harrisburg City Passenger Railway Company, in 1874, he was made a director, and was treasurer for nearly twenty years, but resigned and withdrew from the company when it was decided to run the cars on Sunday.

He was especially active in his church work, as a member of the Reformed Church, and held many offices in connection with its Sunday-school operations, its mission and other work. He was also an earnest advocate of the cause of temperance.

He died, universally respected and lamented, on Wednesday afternoon, October 3, 1906, survived by his two sons, Luther R. Kelker, Chief of the State Division of Public Records, and William A. Kelker.

Mr. Kelker became a member of the Pennsylvania-German Society on January 13, 1892.

H. M. M. R.



John Randolph Bricker.

John Randolph Bricker was born July 14, 1841, near Lititz, Pa., son of David Bricker, son of Peter, son of Christian, son of Peter Bricker, a Mennonite who emigrated from Switzerland, in 1733, and settled in Cocalico Township of Lancaster County, Pa. His mother was Lucinda A. Peterson, daughter of John Peterson, a Danish Moravian who emigrated to Lititz about 1795. He was married to Rachel Ricksecker, daughter of Jacob Ricksecker, a son of Peter Ricksecker, who emigrated to Mount Joy Township from Berne, Switzerland, in 1740.

Mr. Bricker's uncle, John Bricker, was a millwright by trade, and built the first mill to go by water in Texas, having emigrated to that Mexican province with Austin; later he was killed in the war with Mexico which led to the independence of Texas.

His grandmother was Eva Magdalena Holstein, daughter of George Holstein, of Millbach, Lebanon County, who served in Captain Hudson's company during the Revolution. His brother, Michael, who afterwards changed his name to Stoner, was a companion of Daniel Boone, and at one time, the only white man in Kentucky. He took part in the battle of King's Mountain, the capture of Vincennes, and was wounded at the siege of Boone's Fort and the massacre of Blue Licks.

He was educated at the Lititz Academy, and commissioned Captain of Company F, 179th P. V., in November, 1862. After being mustered out he was ap-

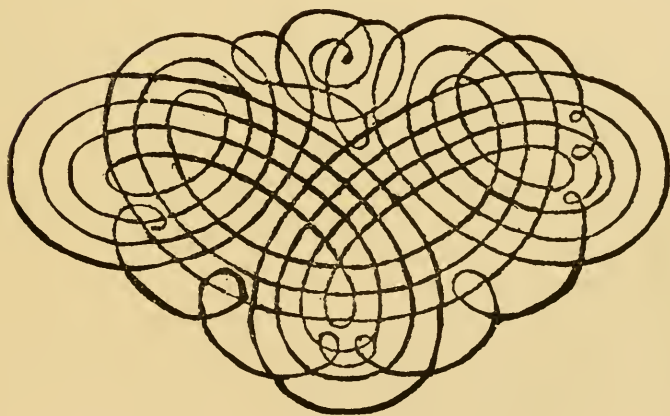
pointed a Commissioner of Subsistence by President Lincoln, with the rank of Captain, and later, Brevet Major.

Prior to the Civil War he was in the mercantile business, then, for a time, in the lumber business at Middletown, and, later, in the lumber trade in Kentucky. Afterward, he was engaged in the manufacture of cigars at Lititz, growing much of his own tobacco.

He was an active member of the Moravian Church, and connected with various of its operations. He became a member of the Pennsylvania-German Society at its organization.

His death occurred at 6:00 A. M., on Monday, October 15, 1906.

H. M. M. R.



Jacob B. Mauser.

Jacob B. Mauser was born June 14, 1837, in Northampton County, Pa., son of George Adam Mauser, b. July 18, 1798, d. August 17, 1883, and Maria Werner, b. June 5, 1806, d. November 11, 1876 (dau. Adam Werner and Eve Beidler), son of John Mauser.

Four years of his early life, from 1856 to 1860, were spent in Kansas. Returning to his native county he became actively identified with its industrial and financial doings. He was president of the Mauser Milling Company, operating the three largest flour mills in the Lehigh Valley, and a director of the State Millers' Association. He was, likewise, a director of the National Bank of Catasauqua, and a founder, director, and first vice-president of the Citizens' Deposit and Trust Company of Allentown. Mr. Mauser was said to have borne a striking resemblance to Vice-President Fairbanks.

His death occurred in Allentown, at 4:20 A. M., on Friday, December 28, 1906, from a hardening of the blood vessels. Besides his wife, he was survived by the following children:

Elsie, wife of Dr. Horace F. Livingood, of Womelsdorf, Pa., County Controller of Berks; J. Mark, of Treichlers, Northampton County; Stella M. and George B., both of Allentown.

He became a member of the Pennsylvania-German Society on October 25, 1900.

H. M. M. R.

Rev. Franklin F. J. Schantz, D.D.

Rev. Franklin F. J. Schantz, D.D., was born January 8, 1836, in the home of his parents at the head of Cedar Creek, Upper Macungie township, Lehigh Co., Pa., and was baptized in his infancy by Rev. Daniel Zeller. He was son of Jacob Schantz, b. Nov. 28, 1791, d. June, 1843, a miller who, like his father, owned and operated the mill at the head of Cedar Creek, in Lehigh County, and was married to Sarah Fogel, b. July 25, 1799, d. April 25, 1871, dau. of Hon. John and Catherine (Stettler) Fogel, of Fogelsville, Pa. He was son of Jacob Schantz, b. 1761, m. 1788, Maria Bortz, who served as a frontier ranger in the Revolutionary War, and came to Pennsylvania as a Redemptioner, making his home with a farmer and miller, named Kohler, in Egypt, Northampton (now Lehigh) Co., where he learned the milling business. He was son of Johan Schantz, who arrived in Pennsylvania, October 1, 1770, accompanied by his four sons.

In his youth Dr. Schantz was instructed in St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church at Allentown, Pa., where he was confirmed Oct. 26, 1851, by Rev. Joshua Yeager. His early education was in the public and private schools of the neighborhood, followed by an attendance at the Allentown Academy from April 1848 to 1850, and then at the Allentown Seminary until the fall of 1853 when he entered the Junior class of Franklin and Marshall College

at Lancaster, graduating from the same in 1855, and from the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg on Sept. 15, 1857. Thus equipped he was licensed as an Evangelical Lutheran minister at the meeting of the West Pennsylvania Synod at Carlisle, Pa., on Sept. 28, 1857, and ordained at the meeting of the Ministerium of Pennsylvania, in St. John's Church, Easton, Pa., on June 3, 1858.

On April 29, 1858, he was united in marriage to Miss Cordelia S. Saeger, dau. of Charles and Eliza (Eckert) Saeger, of Allentown. Three of their children survive: Henry F., a practising physician in Reading, Mrs. John P. Spangler, of Philadelphia, and Mrs. W. Stanton Haak of Lebanon.

From October, 1857, to January, 1861, Dr. Schantz had charge of Trinity Church, Reading; of the Catasauqua parish from 1861 to 1866; assistant agent Theological Seminary, Philadelphia, Nov. 5, 1865, to Sept. 30, 1866, then general agent until June 30, 1867. In July, 1867, he became pastor of the Myerstown Church, and retained this charge until his decease. He also served the Mount Aetna congregation, Zion's Church at Jonestown from July, 1867, to Dec., 1881, and Emanuel Church at Brickerville, Lancaster Co., from 1876 to 1879.

His labors in the service of his Master have been indefatigable. Besides the service of his own congregations, he was called to the offices of secretary and president of conferences, member and secretary of the synodical executive committee, secretary of the Ministerium, trustee of the Orphans' Home at Germantown, trustee of Muhlenberg College, visitor of the Emaus Orphans' Home, delegate to the General Council and member of the English Home Mission Board. The degree of Doctor of Divi-

nity was conferred upon him by Augustana College and Theological Seminary, at Rock Island, Ill., in 1894. At a meeting of the Evangelical Lutheran Ministerium of Pennsylvania, in Allentown, in May, 1901, he was made president of that great body, and reelected to the same office, May, 1902, and June, 1903.

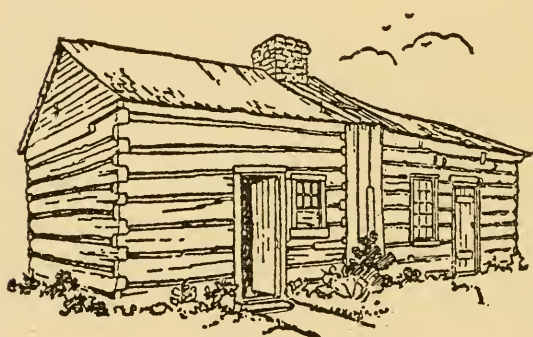
Dr. Schantz took great interest in historical research. His brain was a veritable storehouse of such data, from which treasures, great and small, were constantly produced for the enlightenment of his hearers, and to their great enjoyment. He made scores of addresses on his favorite subject and wrote a number of most interesting and valuable articles, prominent amongst which are the following: "The Sesqui-Centennial Discourse, Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church near Stouchsburg, Pa.," 1893; "The Sesqui-Centennial Sermon, Jordan Evangelical Lutheran Church, Lehigh Co., Pa.," 1894; "Historical Discourse, 155th Anniversary of Jerusalem Church, Salisbury township, Lehigh Co., Pa.," 1896; "Historical Address Centennial of Third Church Building of Christ German Lutheran Congregation, Rockland township, Berks Co., Pa.," 1898; "History of Bricker-ville Congregation, Lancaster Co., Pa.," 1898; "Semi-Centennial of Muhlenberg College," 1898; "Domestic Life and Characteristics of the Pennsylvania-German Pioneer," in Vol. 10 of the Proceedings of the Pennsylvania-German Society.

Because of his active interest in matters pertaining to history it was but natural that he should be one of the founders of the Pennsylvania-German Society. His efforts to advance its great work were untiring. He was elected a member of its Executive Committee Oct., 1896, on which he served, most faithfully, until his elevation to

the Presidency in Oct., 1899. His familiar and genial face was rarely absent from any meeting of the Society. It will be greatly missed now that he has been called to his everlasting reward.

His death occurred, suddenly, at 10:45 P. M. on Saturday, January 19, 1907, from failure of the heart, in his Myerstown parsonage.

H. M. M. R.



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